

MEMORIAL
OF THE
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ARKANSAS,

IN FAVOR OF

An extension of the mail route from Rock Roe to Batesville in steamboats, and thence via Springfield to Boonville in four-horse coaches; also a stage route from St. Louis via Batesville to Little Rock.

FEBRUARY 5, 1849.

Referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

The members of the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas would respectfully pray your honorable body to extend the present mail route, No. — from Napoleon to Rock Roe to Batesville in steamboats, and from there *via* Springfield, Missouri, to Boonville, Missouri, in four-horse post coaches; also, a stage line from St. Louis, Missouri, *via* Batesville, Arkansas, to Little Rock, to be carried in four-horse post coaches. In asking the above prayer, your memorialists are governed and influenced by the just wants of a large and growing public necessity, and without annoying you with the just reasoning and complaint which might be made on account of the neglected condition of this interesting portion of country, we will proceed to lay before your honorable body a few of the advantages which such an arrangement will afford to the government and to your petitioners. In the first place, we are of the opinion that it will afford a quicker and cheaper route for conveying intelligence from our southwestern to our western frontier than that of any other route; and those of your petitioners who are best acquainted with the country, its resources, and the necessity for the first line, would beg leave to state, as their opinion, that owing to the great advantages for freighting and passengers, that after the government shall have once extended the line from Rock Roe to Batesville, the route, after its first letting, can be kept up for as little if not a less sum than she now pays to Rock Roe. And we would also recommend that if at any time White river shall be too low for the boats to get to Batesville, that they shall land at Berkely, upon Black river, and shall convey the mail from there to Batesville in four-horse post coaches. In asking the establishment of a line of stages from St. Louis to Little Rock, your petitioners would simply state, that the present mail facilities are wholly inadequate to the just wants of the people of the country through which we ask its passage. In our present condition many of us frequently receive our Washington news through

New Orleans papers before we get it direct from Washington. This route from St. Louis, connecting as it would with the northern mail, would never be subject to the many detentions from the freezing and from water in the Ohio river, but would come at all times regularly through, affording quick and sure mail facilities from the North for all the country from St. Louis to Little Rock, and might even be beneficially extended to the southern portion of our State, and to the eastern, middle, and western portion of Texas. These are a few of the many advantages which might be adduced in favor of the measure in a national and individual point of view, and many of your petitioners are of the opinion that the same great advantages to the settlement, cultivation and trade, which flow to other countries on account of their superior mail facilities, will apply in the broadest sense to the lines proposed for your consideration; and in that light alone many of your petitioners are of opinion that the general government would realize an increase in the value of her public domain, through which these routes would pass, more than sufficient to meet every expense which the granting of the prayer would create, insuring to the government many great and important advantages, without sustaining any real loss, at the same time affording but the just and necessary facilities to a large and increasing population interested in the establishment of these important routes. That you will be guided in your action upon this petition by the most liberal policy consistent with the finances of the Department, and that you will grant, and put in operation the routes prayed for at as early a day as practicable, we will not permit ourselves to doubt.

Therefore we, as good and dutiful citizens, will ever pray.

E. A. WARREN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

R. C. BYRD.

President of the Senate.

Approved December 8, 1848.

THOS. S. DUNN.

A true copy from the original.

D. B. GREER,

Secretary of State.